



Anthony Perkins
Principal

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Assistant Principal

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October 9, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing this letter to notify you that Lakeforest Elementary has been dually designated as both a North Carolina Low-Performing school and a federally identified Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education.

As defined in G.S. 115C-105.37: "The State Board of Education shall identify low-performing schools on an annual basis. Low-performing schools are those that earn an overall school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth" as defined by G.S. 115C-83.15." Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long North Carolina General Assembly session provides parents with an additional measure of school performance in the form of School Performance Grades. Beginning with the 2013–14 school year, the annual North Carolina School Report Cards display a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F for each school in the state.

School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. At Lakeforest, our achievement score for the 2022-2023 school year is based on how well our students performed on Grades 3–5 Mathematics, Grades 3–5 English Language Arts/Reading, and Grade 5 Science. Lakeforest Elementary received a School Performance Grade of D and a growth designation of Met for the 2022–2023 school year.

In addition, per the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1111(d)(2), schools receive the federal identification of TSI-AT in North Carolina by having one or more of the following subgroups receive a subgroup performance grade score at or below the lowest 5% of schools across the state during the 2021- 2022 academic year; and being identified as a consistently underperforming subgroup in 2019-2020. Subgroup performance scores are provided for the following subgroups of students: (1) Students with Disabilities, (2) Economically Disadvantaged, (3) Black, (4) White, (5) Hispanic, (6) Asian-Pacific Islander, (7) Multi-racial, and (8) English Learners.

As a TSI-AT (ATSI) school, Lakeforest is required to develop an Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve outcomes for underperforming subgroups. The plan will also include strategies that our district or charter will employ to support Lakeforest's improvement efforts. The ATSI plan will address the following areas

- Standards-aligned Instruction
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Instructional Leadership
- Implementation of a Tiered Instructional System
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Family and Community Engagement

We have set the following goals for Lakeforest this year:

- Move proficiency from 47 to 55 and earn a school grade of C.
- Reduce suspensions and time out of class by 20%.
- Implement morning meetings and social emotional learning to assist with relationships.

Here are some strategies that we will be implementing to improve student outcomes:

- Froggy Flex Intervention block designed to help students who may need additional support in reading
- United Way and Academic Academy Afterschool Program for K-5 students to provide additional support in reading, math, and 5th grade science
- Multi-Tier System of Support: Problem Solving Team designed to provide supplemental and intensive interventions for students who are not making consistent progress at the core level

Also, parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways we can work together:

- Ensure that both you and your child know the academic expectations set for your child this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your student's teacher(s).
- Call your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns about your student or to set up an appointment to meet with a school staff member who will be working with your child.
- Make sure that your child is prepared and attends school each day.
- Monitor your child's homework.
- Monitor the progress your child is making and attend meetings with your child's teacher(s).
- Keep track of our website and social media sites <https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/lakeforest>

Additionally, listed below are a few resources available to help:

- Graduation requirements: www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/
- State student achievement test results: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/
- N.C. School Report Cards: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/school-report-cards>

We are committed to improving student performance. It is important to remember that just as no one single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about the performance of a school or the opportunities that our school provides. The intent of receiving these designations is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction. We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your child. Already, we have:

- STEM School – gives a skill set that governs the way we think and behave
- AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) – an in-school academic support program that promotes Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration
- Capturing Kids Heart Initiative – promotes rigor and relationship building by creating a safe and positive learning environment
- United Way and Academic Academy Afterschool Program for K-5

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our School Performance Grade and how we plan to improve, please don't hesitate to contact Anthony Perkins at perkina1@pitt.k12.nc.us

Sincerely,

Anthony Perkins
Principal